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April 20, 2000

Dr. Jane Henny, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Henny:

I am writing you regarding a petition filed by the National Milk Producers Federation with the FDA to stop soy milk producers, among others, from using the term "milk" in their products. I want to voice my objection to this baseless complaint and urge that the FDA not rule in the milk industry's favor.

For years, the dairy industry has had a virtual monopoly on the term "milk." However, besides cow's milk, there is nut milk, coconut milk, rice milk, oat milk, soy milk, to name a few. The term "milk" is commonly understood to apply to all these products. It is a term that is accepted by the millions of people who can not, or chose not to, consume cow's milk and instead consume alternative milk products. The milk industry is playing a petty game of semantics in claiming that the term "milk" only applies to the product of a cow. It is another example of their continued efforts to maintain hegemony over the milk product market.

The term "milk", in and of itself, should not designate any particular product. Milk from cows should be labeled as "cow's milk", just as soy milk includes the word "soy" on its label. This clarification in terminology should address any concerns the milk industry has that its product be distinguished from other milk products. I urge the FDA to allow non-dairy products to use the term "milk" in their labeling and to require that milk from cows be labeled clearly as "cow's milk." Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Erickson
7350 York Ave. S #103
Edina, MN 55435

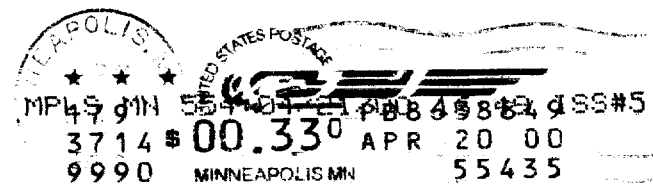
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